

If someone had properly identified these symptoms as warning signs, perhaps this tragedy could have been avoided.

I could go on and highlight tragedies from just the past several years from all over the country. Post-incident investigations show that all of these violent actors often suffer from variations of mental health concerns, including depression, anxiety, delusions, paranoia, bipolar disorder, suicidal and homicidal thoughts, and adherence to bizarre conspiracy theories. Many of those who are closest to these attackers were aware of their conditions, and some even expressed concern about their propensity for violence ahead of their times of killing.

The EAGLES Act of 2021 is a bipartisan, commonsense piece of legislation. This bill carries the namesake of the Parkland, FL, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School mascot—the Eagles, that is—and it is a tribute to the 17 Eagles who tragically lost their lives 3 years ago at the hands of a former student struggling with severe behavioral problems and mental illness.

This legislation helps proactively mitigate threats of violence by reauthorizing as well as expanding the U.S. Secret Service's National Threat Assessment Center, which also goes by the acronym NTAC.

NTAC's approach is squarely focused on research. After every instance of mass violence, their team of social science experts canvasses the circumstances and the attacker's behavior to determine the facts.

NTAC's 2019 publication called "Mass Attacks in Public Squares" found that during the previous year, 93 percent of the attackers engaged in threatening or concerning communications prior to carrying out violent actions. Another 2019 NTAC study entitled "Protecting America's Schools" made an even more definitive finding related to violence in our educational system. This study concluded that all—in other words, every one—of the school attackers exhibited concerning behaviors prior to engaging in an act of violence.

A family member, a teacher, a coach, a fellow employee, or a neighbor's ability to observe someone's behavior, home life circumstances, work life factors, and other political stressors, coupled with NTAC's threat assessment training, can prevent harmful outcomes from occurring. But in order for this to be effective, we need to increase NTAC's ability to continue their research and get much needed training to their communities. The result will be increased opportunities for early intervention and referrals to mental health services for those in need and also get names to the FBI database so that they can't buy a gun.

Just recently, the EAGLES Act got a resounding endorsement from the National Association of Attorneys General. Forty attorneys general from all over the United States believe that NTAC's proactive approach is critical

to violence prevention and its training programs are urgently needed. These attorneys general are responsible for ensuring safe communities and are urging our quick action to pass this legislation. We cannot afford to ignore or delay their explicit plea for assistance.

So now, as a bottom line, I ask all of my Senate colleagues to consider the commonsense, practical solution provided in the EAGLES Act. The more research and threat assessment training that we can provide, the more violence we can prevent.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Madam President, on another matter, I have come to the floor I think Monday, Tuesday, and today because this is National Police Week, to honor our men and women in blue. It started way back in 1962. Our Nation has annually celebrated the lives and memory of the men and women of law enforcement who are killed in the line of duty.

The origin of National Police Week goes back nearly 50 years to President John F. Kennedy's proclamation that each May 15 be designated as "National Peace Officers Memorial Day." Over the years, this single day has grown into a weeklong opportunity to honor the sacrifices of our law enforcement professionals throughout America.

Normally, tens of thousands of police officers, deputy sheriffs, State troopers, and others sworn to uphold the rule of law would have gathered here in our Nation's Capital. They would be participating in a host of events that both honor their fallen colleagues and celebrate their comradery. Unfortunately, the global virus pandemic continues to take its toll on nearly every aspect of life, with National Police Week events being no exception. It is very disappointing to lose the opportunity to celebrate, as we have every year before last year, our communities' heroes in this public way. Maybe next year it will be back to normal.

Rather than gathering in-person along the National Mall, this year's events will include a virtual candlelight vigil. On Thursday, May 13, Americans will come together online to pay tribute to our fallen protectors. The name of each man and woman who gave their last measure of devotion during the previous year will be read aloud. I encourage everyone to join me in honoring their sacrifice during this event.

Despite the impact of COVID-19 and the risk to their individual safety, men and women of law enforcement continue to steadfastly uphold their oath to serve and to protect.

Pandemic or not, the National Law Enforcement Memorial remains a focal point of National Police Week. It is here where cops come to remember their departed friends and honor those families of the lost ones.

At the time of its dedication in 1991, the names of 12,000 local, State, and Federal law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty dating back to 1786 were engraved onto that memorial.

Each year, the curved stone walls are updated with the names of the recently fallen. Today, over 22,000 heroes are permanently venerated within those solemn 3 acres.

In our own Declaration of Independence, our Founding Fathers spoke of certain unalienable rights endowed by our Creator. Those specifically mentioned were life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. None of these rights are possible without every citizen's most basic level of security.

While the United States has layers of safety built into our system of government, none is more critical to our foundational rights than local law enforcement. Maintaining a free, safe, and civil society is squarely dependent on someone who is willing to answer the call without regard to time or circumstance and who puts themselves in harm's way to ensure that the innocent are protected and the law is upheld.

HONORING SERGEANT JIM SMITH

This call to service was embodied by Sergeant Jim Smith of the Iowa State Patrol, who courageously gave his life on April 9, 2021. Sergeant Smith was tragically killed during an attempt to apprehend a violent suspect.

Sergeant Smith, a 27-year-old Iowa State Patrol veteran and tactical team leader, put himself in harm's way on behalf of his fellow Iowans last month, and it cost him everything.

As his colleagues remembered Sergeant Smith during his memorial service, he was described as a completely genuine man who loved his family and loved being a civil servant on behalf of his community.

Sergeant Smith found his life's purpose as a dedicated law enforcement officer, and I know I speak for many Iowans when I say we are forever grateful for his service.

While I mourn the loss of Sergeant Smith, along with his family, fellow troopers, friends, and the entire Independence, IA, community, I am pleased that his sacrifice will not be forgotten. His memory, along with the 306 officers we tragically lost in 2020, will live forever, as their names will be inscribed on the stone walls of the National Law Enforcement Memorial. Iowans for generations to come will be able to visit Washington, find Sergeant Smith's name, and be reminded of the high cost of preserving our precious rights.

Earlier this week, I introduced a resolution to commemorate National Police Week. This resolution honors the brave men and women who put themselves in harm's way to make their communities a safer place. As in years past, the measure has significant bipartisan support and gives tribute to those who, despite knowing the inherent risk, chose to serve their fellow citizens. Thank you to my many Senate colleagues who signed on as cosponsors to this resolution.

In closing, I want to encourage everyone to visit the National Law Enforcement Memorial. As you enter the